GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
A B S T R A C T

MA&UD Department – SAC – Public Services – Establishment of Responsible Sanitation Authority in the State of Andhra Pradesh for elimination of hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks – Safaimitra Suraksha, GoI – PEMRA Act 2013 – Appointed RSA – communication of Government orders – formation of Responsive Sanitation Unit (RSU) - Designating all the Collectors & District Magistrates as the Responsible Sanitation Authority (RSA) in the District & Municipal Commissioner as Responsive Sanitation Unit (RSU) in all the ULB's – Orders – Issued.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION & URBAN DEVELOPMENT (UBS)DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.334 Dated:02-07.2021

Read:

From the Managing Director, Swachha Andhra Corporation, Vijayawada, Lr. No. 77(2)/SAC/COO-2016, Dated 28-06-2021.

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O R D E R:

The Managing Director, SAC, Vijayawada in the reference read above has stated that the Elimination of hazardous manual cleaning of sewers and septic tanks has been identified as one of salient themes. The Secretary (HUA)'s in their D.O. letter dated 12th July 2019 has also requested for setting up of an appropriately staffed, trained and equipped Emergency Response Sanitation Unit (ERSU) under a Responsible Sanitation Authority (RSA) nominated from among senior officers in major cities and State capitals. Prevention of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act (PEMSRA), 2013 and the proposed National Action Plan Frame work for elimination of need for entering sewers and septic tanks. Administrators from major metropolises spoke about the efficient practices being followed in the cities for sewage and faecal septage management.

2. The Managing Director, SAC, Vijayawada has therefore requested the Government to issue necessary orders in the matter.

3. The Government after careful examination of the matter hereby designate the following officers as Responsible Sanitation Authority (RSA).

- All the Collectors & District Magistrates in the State of Andhra Pradesh as the Responsible Sanitation Authority (RSA) covering all ULBs in the District.
- Further, the Responsible Sanitation Authority (RSA) shall head all the Sanitation Response Unit (SRU) which is headed by the respective commissioners.

A detailed guiding document for Sanitation Response Unit (SRU) as follows:

- The SRU shall be equipped with trained Sewer entry professionals and machinery to meet/ handle all the emergencies and whose services can be requisitioned through a call.

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- A well-equipped Sanitation Response Unit (SRU) shall be set up in the Headquarters of ULB of the district, with a mandate to service the entire urban areas of the district. Apart from this, each of the Municipal Corporations shall have a separate SRU.

- The main objective of Sanitation Response Unit (SRU) is to provide professional, well trained, motivated and appropriately equipped workforce for the maintenance and management issues of sanitation sector, thereby eliminating the deaths caused by the entry of workers into sewers and septic tanks without proper PPEs & training and non- adherence to security protocols and their supervision in field.

- SRU shall be responsible to meet sanitation emergency requests from all towns within the district.

- SRU may not physically bear any dedicated person on its staff, if it can arrange the number and type of trained persons from the rolls of municipal authority, parastatals, private sanitation organizations, NGOs etc. Similarly, the equipment required by SRU may be actually maintained and serviced by the local municipal body or parastatal.

- Based on the type of requisition received, SRU may further delegate the non-entry type work to either the ULB or registered private vendor or use their own equipment/resources.

4. The terms of references for SRU is attached in the Annexure for taking necessary action.

5. The Managing Director, SAC, Vijayawada / CDMA., Guntur / All the District Collectors shall take necessary action in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

Y.SRILAKSHMI
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Managing Director, SAC, Vijayawada.
The Commissioner & Director of Municipal Administration., Guntur.
All the District Collectors through MD., SAC., Vijayawada./
Copy to:
The OSD to Hon'ble M(MA).
The P.S. to Special Chief Secretary to Government.
Sf/Sc

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

ANNEXURE TO G.O.RT.NO.334, DATED:02.07.2021

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SRU

Roles and responsibilities of SRU

- Staff for SRU will be arranged by the RSA/Municipal Corporation. It shall consist of a 24x7 response contact number.

- Sewer Entry Professionals (SEPs) may preferably be selected from traditionally employed sanitation workers. They must be comprehensively trained on their job and safety/security measures so that they do not risk their lives in cleaning of sewer/septic tanks;

- It is not necessary to employ all the SEPs on permanent government strength. Professionally trained and equipped Private Sanitation Service Organizations (PSSOs) may also be empanelled by respective SRUs to provide an assured number of private SEPs and equipment sets. These PSSOs should also preferably employ those persons who have been traditionally engaged in sewer/ septic tank cleaning in the area;

- RSA should procure adequate full sets of protective equipment (both personal and institutional) and maintain them at optimal efficiency at all times. Whenever, a SEP Team is tasked to carry out the job, they may be issued the protective gear and other equipment and should be allowed to do the job under Supervision of a trained officer of RSA;

- Entry of any individual other than member of a trained SEP Team specifically deputed from SRU into sewers or septic tanks without permission of SRU shall be deemed contravention of the PEMSRA Act, 2013, such individuals and the entity/ person allowing such entry directly or indirectly, will be held criminally liable under the Act. RSA will be empowered take necessary action in this regard;

- The RSA will notify charges/ fees for services provided by SRU from time to time, which shall be binding on the towns dependent on the SRU.

Norms of SRU for different categories of cities:

- Necessary number of Sewer Entry Professionals (SEPs), roughly scaled at one SEP Team per 500 septic tanks or 50 KM of Sewers should be maintained by each SRU;

- When Human Entry is required Communication will invariably be made with SRU to undertake the task on Registered Telephone Number(RTN)

Composition of SRU:

a. Nominated persons from Responsible Sanitation Authority (RSA)
b. Telephone Operators to receive the emergency call as needed
c. Duty Supervisor — May be in rotation from among Sanitary Inspector/ Jr Engineer in the ULB
d. Sewer Entry Professionals- Dedicated Teams of at least two trained persons. One SEP team to be maintained per 500 septic tanks/ 50 KM of Sewer length.
    i. Authorised Entrants- individuals who are authorized by the employer to enter a sewer or Septic tank

    ii. Attendant/ Top Man - an individual stationed outside who monitors the authorized entrant and performs all attendant's duties assigned in the SOP for Sewer

e. Duties and responsibilities of Various Personnel of SRU: The RSA shall be a single authority in his/her jurisdiction, for ensuring safe and successful sewer/ septic tank entry.

f. Telephone Operator : To receive call

    i. To inform Duty Supervisor
    ii. To maintain record
    iii. To inform on priority Call paramedics, ambulance and police personnel and the SEP Team members on directions by duty supervisors

iv. In case of a privately owned Septic tank where the request has been received on Registered Telephone Number (RTN), the operator will inform the appropriate local body/ private sanitation services providers to address non-entry removal of the choke.

g. Duty Supervisor.

i. To immediately reach site of sewer/ septic tank overflow
ii. Collect information from owner/ officials of Sewerage board/ Municipality who were already carrying out the non-entry procedures.
iii. Evaluate and identify hazards before entry.
iv. Request permission from RSA (in writing) to arrange the sewer entry procedure.
v. Instruct the telephone operator to arrange the SEP team and other on priority call personnel.
vi. To arrange release of necessary protective gear and site equipment from the SRU store, if not held by the SEP Team and ensure availability at site in proper working condition.
vii. Verify conditions are safe for entry.
viii. To oversee the entire sewer/ septic tank entry process
ix. Ensure acceptable entry conditions are maintained
x. To call off the sewer/ septic entry if he feels any danger to the authorized entrant
xi. To report completion of task to RSA

h. Sewer Entry Professionals

i. Authorized Entrant

1. Trained to know the hazards associated with confined space entry, and in particular, the hazards associated with sewer and septic tank entry.

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2. Should be trained to use all required equipment.
3. Know the procedures for communication with the top man/attendant.
4. Know how to alert the attendant of hazardous or prohibited conditions.
5. Know how to exit the space if necessary (that is, self rescue).

ii. Top Man Attendant

1. Knows the hazards that may be faced during entry
2. Remains outside the sewer/ septic tank during entry operations until relieved by another attendant;
3. Is aware of possible behavioural effects of hazard exposure in authorized entrants
4. Monitors activities inside and outside the space
5. Only the Top man should communicate with authorized entrants
6. Summons rescue and other emergency services
7. Performs non-entry rescues as specified by the employer's rescue procedure
8. Performs no duties that might interfere with the attendant's primary duty to monitor and protect the authorized entrants.

Y.SRILAKSHMI
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT